

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 23, 2003, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,787,246 (Lichtman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,345,319 (Lin); claims 21-26 were rejected under § 103 over Lichtman in view of Lin and U.S. Patent No. 6,094,679 (Teng); and claims 27-47 were rejected under § 103 over Lichtman in view of Lin, Teng, and U.S. Patent 6,405,362 (Shih).

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the hypothetical combination of Lichtman and Lin. The Office Action stated that Lichtman discloses the act of creating a configuration information file as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Note that the configuration information file of claim 1 contains *data specifying a command to initiate an executable software routine for installing a device driver*. There is no such teaching of such a configuration information file in Lichtman. The Office Action pointed to a driver loading module 35 in the column 15 passage at lines 33 through 44 of Lichtman. However, there is no mention whatsoever within Lichtman that the driver loading module 35 is part of a configuration information file. For at least this reason, the obviousness rejection is defective.

Moreover, the Office Action admitted that Lichtman does not disclose reading data from the configuration information file, as recited in claim 1. Rather, the Office Action cited Lin as teaching this missing element. Lin describes reading from set-up files (INF files) for installation of a plug and play device. However, there is no teaching in Lin of reading data from the configuration information file, where the data *identifies actions to be accomplished* as well as information to be used to install one or more device drivers. The column 2 and 3 passages cited by the Office Action state that the INF file of the hardware driver of a new device is opened, and the hardware device ID and hardware device class read from the INF file. However, there is no indication that the INF file is the configuration information file containing data identifying actions to be accomplished for installing one or more device drivers as recited in claim 1. For this additional reason, the asserted combination of Lichtman and Lin does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Because independent claim 1 is allowable over the asserted combination of Lichtman and Lin, all claims dependent from claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons. However, note that dependent claims contain additional recited elements that are further not disclosed or suggested by the asserted combination of Lichtman and Lin.

Dependent claims 21-26 (which depend from claim 1) were rejected over the hypothetical combination of Lichtman, Lin, and Teng. Note that Lichtman and Lin fail to teach the elements of claim 1, and thus the asserted combination of Lichtman, Lin, and Teng also fails to teach the elements of claim 1. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the hypothetical combination of Lichtman, Lin, and Teng fail to teach or suggest the invention of claims 21-26.

Independent claim 27 was rejected over the asserted combination of Lichtman, Lin, Teng, and Shih. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation or suggestion to combine the four references as proposed by the Office Action. Except for a combination that is based entirely on impermissible hindsight, no specific rationale has been provided in the Office Action of why there is a motivation or suggestion to combine the four references.

Moreover, as noted above, the hypothetical combination of Lichtman and Lin fails to teach the configuration information file as recited in claim 27. Also, there is no teaching or suggestion by the hypothetical combination of references of an executable file that initiates a user interface containing one or more selectable buttons associated with one or more device drivers that may be installed on the computer system, with the selection of the one or more selectable buttons causing execution of additional instructions that install device drivers based on the data stored in the configuration information file.

With respect to independent claim 30, the hypothetical combination of references does not teach or suggest a configuration information file containing data that enables the installation of *plural device drivers*, which configuration information file containing data used by a computer system to automatically install a first device driver and allocate computer system resources without user intervention, and data specifying a command to initiate an executable software routine for installing a second device driver. Also, the combination of references does not teach or suggest a user interface module that displays

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selectable *buttons* that enables the selection of device drivers to be installed on the computer system.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (MCE.0110US).

Respectfully submitted,

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